

On page 9, before the heading "Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments"  
please insert the following paragraph:

B3 Figure 16 schematically illustrates a conventional hip implant including a stem component and a ball component and well known fixation devices including a screw, a nail or a pin, and a fixation plate.

On page 13, lines 15-27, please amend the paragraph as follows:

B4 Accordingly, artificial implant components according to the present invention are formed of a biocompatible metal alloy substantially free of carbide and sigma second phase particles and preferably essentially free of any second phase particles. The implant and components of the invention are particularly desirable for use in forming articulating implant components in artificial hip, knee, shoulder, ankle, elbow and other joints because they do not generate second phase particles, and/or pitted surfaces. Such articulating components include the ball component 52 of the conventional hip implant 50 illustrated in Figure 16. In addition, single phase alloys are also desirably used to form non-articulating elements of joint implants such as implant stems and nails, screws, and plates, because of the alloy's improved stability and/or strength. The alloys of the invention are also desirably used to form implant components and fixation structures that are positioned in juxtarticular locations in the body since release of second phase particles may otherwise enhance loosening of implants via various biological responses, and may cause chemical changes in body fluids and tissues. Examples of such components are illustrated in Figure 16 and include the stem 54 of the hip implant 50, and the fixation devices 60 which include a screw 62, a nail or pin 64, and a fixation plate 66.

In The Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

B5 21. (Amended) The biocompatible metal alloy of Claim 20, wherein said alloy has a yield strength greater than about 120 Ksi.